

Dear Families,

Welcome to your eighth grade Humanities ELA class! We are excited about our plans this year, and we look forward to working with you. This year we hope to support our students' development as critical readers and writers through multiple opportunities for them to engage with a variety of texts. By the end of this school year, our students will be prepared to enter high school with the skills they need in order to be successful, insightful readers and writers.

Our ELAR TEKS emphasize reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking, and students will examine a variety of literary, informational, and argumentative texts throughout the school year. Students will also draw connections across reading and writing to their Humanities U.S. History course. Furthermore, students at times will engage in Project-Based Learning, which will enable them to be self-directed learners as well as collaborate with their peers. By the end of the school year, students will have produced multiple pieces of writing, crafted multimodal presentations, and discussed real-life, engaging topics with others. Humanities students will also begin learning about the SAT and ACT to better prepare them for high school courses.

We encourage you to speak with your students about what they are reading, writing, and learning in class. Be sure to continually review their performance via Skyward Access.

Here is an overview of the school year:

1st Six Weeks: Causes Worth Fighting For <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analyzing various pieces of American literature and history • Writing short stories 	2nd Six Weeks: Character and Literary Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analyzing literary texts • Informational/literary analysis 	3rd Six Weeks: Tomorrow's History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analyzing informational texts and research • Creating a podcast
4th Six Weeks: Rhetorical Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analyzing argumentative texts • Crafting a speech • Writing short and extended constructed responses 	5th Six Weeks: ThinkLaw <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThinkLaw cases and a mock trial • Reading and analyzing multiple genres • Writing short and extended constructed responses 	6th Six Weeks: Genius Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Creating a TED talk on a real-world issue

We look forward to working with you this year!

Respectfully,

EMS ISD 8th Grade GT Humanities ELAR Teachers